



PATENT APPLICATION

Our File No.: 20030294.ORI

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re App : Paul S. Hepworth : December 9, 2003
S.N. : 10/648,728 : Art Unit unknown
Filed : August 18, 2003
For : A FIXING PLUG

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER RULE 1.56

Applicant(s) herein make available to the Patent and Trademark Office a copy of Form PTO-1449 which lists the following document(s), copies of which are enclosed. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the following provision(s):

- 37 CFR 1.97(b)(1) Within three months of the filing date of the national application. No fee is required.
- 37 CFR 1.97(b)(2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in the international application. No fee is required.
- 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3) Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No fee is required.
- 37 CFR 1.97(c) After the periods specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), but before the mailing date of either: (1) a final action under § 1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first.

- The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; or
- The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; or
- Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$200.00 for the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-1265. Two copies of this sheet are enclosed.
- 37 CFR 1.97(d) After the mailing date of either (1) a final action under § 1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee.
- Applicant(s) hereby petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to consider this information disclosure statement. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$130.00 for the petition fee set forth in § 1.17(i)(1). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-1265. Two copies of this sheet are enclosed.

The Examiner is requested to consider carefully the complete text of these documents in connection with the examination of the above-identified application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104(a). It is requested that the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-

1449 be included in the "References Cited" portion of any patent issuing from this application (M.P.E.P. 1302.12), and that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the form to evidence consideration of the documents.

U.S. Patent 6,416,267 corresponds to German Patent DE 198 55 139 A1. We have no English translation for German Patent DE 3346793 A1.

Dated: December 9, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Information Disclosure Statement Under Rule 1.56, and a Form PTO-1449 to be filed in connection with application Serial No. 10/648,728 of inventor, Paul S. Hepworth, filed August 19, 2003, for "A FIXING PLUG" is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 9, 2003.



Barbara L. Davis
Secretary to C. G. Mersereau

Date of Signature: December 9, 2003



(2-92)
Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Document Number 20030294.0RI	Application Number 10/648,728
	Applicant Paul S. Hepworth	
	Filing Date August 19, 2003	Group Art Unit

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,416,267 B1	07/09/02	Nehl			
	1,087,299	02/17/14	Kennedy			
	4,572,708	02/25/86	Fischer			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
	DE 19855139A1	05/31/00	German			
	DE 3346793A1	07/11/85	German			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Papers, Etc.)

		International Search Report

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.